

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 044388

R 270225 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0822
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2363

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, VN, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATION IN NORTH VIET- NAM

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY DFA ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS APR 26 THAT SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN HANOI HAS NOW BEEN DETERMINED. NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE AS YET, BUT PROSPECTIVE EMBASSY STAFF WILL BE READY TO TRAVEL ABOUT MAY 31.
2. CHARGE' WILL BE BRUCE W. WOODBERRY, CURRENTLY CHIEF OF UN POLITICAL SECTION IN DFA WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SAIGON, 1961-65. FIRST SECRETARY WILL BE KEITH R. FRASER, WHO HAD SERVED IN SAIGON 1963-65 AND 1970-72. SECOND SECRETARY WILL BE ROBERT J. GOODRICK, WHO IS CURRENTLY STUDYING VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE IN VIENTIANE. IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE SECRETARY- STENOGRAPHER (FEMALE) AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.
3. WOODBERRY TOLD EMBOFF STAFF PLANS TO TRAVEL TO HANOI VIA CHARTERED AIRCRAFT (ROUTE AND DATE NOT YET DETERMINED), SINCE THEY WILL BE BRINGING THEIR OWN COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND INITIAL FOOD SUPPLY, ETC. THEY PLAN TO TAKE WEEKLY POUCH FROM HANOI TO BANGKOK,
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ALLOWING STAFF OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT REGULARLY AND WOODBERRY OPPORTUNITY TO READ CLASSIFIED TRAFFIC IN BANGKOK, SINCE THEY WILL RECEIVE AND HOLD AS LITTLE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE. DFA PLANS TO PROVIDE STAFF WITH 10 DAYS SPECIAL LEAVE EVERY TWO TO THREE MONTHS, IN ADDITION TO REGULAR HOME LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS. WOODBERRY HIMSELF PLANS TO BE IN HANOI FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS. AUSTRALIANS HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN INFORMED THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AUTOMOBILES BUT ONLY BICYCLES, WITH DIPLOMATIC LIPTNSES.

4. DFA HAD ORIGINALLY PREPARED LIST OF 17 AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATS WITH PREVIOUS INDOCHINESE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH OR VIETNAMESE TO MAN EMBASSY IN HANOI. SOME OF EMBASSY' S DFA CONTACTS TELL US THAT THIS IS ONE OF MOST UNPOPULAR ASSIGNMENTS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, AND ORIGINAL LIST OF 17 WAS RAPIDLY REDUCED TO BASIC GROUP OF FIVE.

5. WOODBERRY HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT PROSPECT OF ACCOMPLISHING GREAT DEAL IN HANOI. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY STAFF APPEARS TO BE ABLE, EXPERIENCED, AND BALANCED, AND DFA APPROACH TO SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS SEEMS TO BE HIGHLY REALISTIC.
RICE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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